

REMARKS

Applicants elect Group I (claims 1-13), drawn to a method of use of hyaluronic acid in crosslinked form for treating inflammatory skin or mucous membrane diseases.

With regard to the Examiner's further request to elect in each case a single species from claims 7, 8, 10 and 11, to which the claims shall be restricted in the case that no generic claim is finally considered to be allowable, applicants elect the following species:

Item (A): composition not containing an inhibitor of hyaluronic acid degradation;

Item (C): composition not containing another glycosaminoglycan; and

Item (D): viral skin diseases which lead to wart formation.

The Restriction Requirement is traversed. The allegations regarding the prior art being untenable. The Office Action alleges that the inventions of Groups I-IV are not linked by a common inventive concept in the sense of Rule 13.1 PCT in view of Gallina (U.S. 5,679,655) teaching the use of hyaluronic acid for the treatment of inflammations of the skin. However, Gallina does not teach the use of hyaluronic acid in crosslinked form. Thus, the common inventive concept linking the inventions of Groups I-IV is not anticipated by the above-mentioned U.S. Patent, as a consequence of which the restriction of the application is unjustified.

Moreover, the Office Action has not established that it would pose an undue burden to examine the full scope of the claimed invention.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this response or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-3402.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: September 23, 2007